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Remembering an icon

By NINA GOODRICH

Benjamin F. (Bud) Goodrich, Jr. was born at home on his parents' Taylor Street duck farm, January 28, 1916. Cars in Duxbury were still scarce. Most residents kept livestock and used horse and buggy to travel but Duxbury and the nation was starting to see some significant societal changes with the end of World War I.

In 1922, Bud's father recognized these changes, quit full-time farming and built a grain elevator at the Millbrook railroad grade crossing to supply local homeowners and other farms with feed and building supplies. The Taylor Street homestead was too far to travel daily to the new business so the family relocated to Millbrook. Grain led to coal and coal to oil. The demand for lumber and building materials grew along with the town. Bud would go on to run that business for 45 years.

As a child, Bud rode his pony to school, swam in the Back River and sailed on the bay. He attended DHS, graduated in 1933 and went on to Amherst College. He loved Amherst, sang in the glee club, played violin in the orchestra and enjoyed listening to their songs throughout his life. He graduated cum laude with a degree in economics in 1937 and returned to Duxbury to take over the family business. Before long, war interrupted his plans.

As the war in Europe spread, Bud became the military's first draftee selected from Duxbury, just before he could enlist in the Navy. He was selected for the Army's Officers Candidate School and became a classroom instructor for the 34th Coast Anti-Aircraft Artillery assigned to protect New York and New Jersey. He was later



Benjamin "Bud" Goodrich was a longtime Duxbury resident and was involved in town government, as well as many civic organization about town.

transferred to the Army's 10th Mountain Division and served in France and Italy as a supply officer. He was promoted to captain and placed in charge of the Supply Corp Division. He was discharged in 1945 after five years in the service.

When he returned from the war he courted his princess, Natalie Soule. She became his wife in 1950. He lived to celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary in July of 2005.

In 1969 the original lumberyard was destroyed by arson. The next day many of Bud's customers were there to help with the clean up. The lumberyard was relocated to Railroad Ave, and continued to grow until it was sold in 1993 and subsequently relocated to Kingston. He had the opportunity to see the plans for a new retail and business center under current consideration.

He was a member of Duxbury Finance Committee in the 1950's, a 50-year master member of the Mason's Cornerstone Lodge in Duxbury, a 50-year member of the American Legion, a long time trustee of the Partridge Academy Scholarship Fund and a long time

member of The Duxbury Yacht Club.

He was chairman of the First Parish Church parish house building committee and was a bell ringer, whose initials survive in the belfry today.

He enjoyed developing real estate and has left several legacy neighborhoods in Duxbury including Prior Farm, Back River and Brewer's Lane.

He will perhaps best be remembered for his kindness and generosity to the citizens of Duxbury and his support of local clubs and civic organizations. Many have spoken about how Bud helped them keep warm through a tough cold winter, carried a local contractor through a rough patch of business or gave them use of a lumber truck that made their day. Bud was a gentle man with a dry sense of humor. He was insightful, reflective and had an understanding of his responsibilities as a business owner in what was then still a small community. He always looked for and focused on the good in others.

He loved his family and found great joy in spending time with his grandchildren, whether it was hunting for turtles on the millpond or just going out for ice cream. He believed strongly in their education and wanted to ensure that no one broke their spirits.

What is a life, but the sum of how one has acted with and treated others? Bud believed you have to live your faith and that meant helping others even when it was difficult. His legacy is the kind thoughts of those who remember how he helped or inspired them. We miss him now and always will.

(Bud Goodrich, a native of Duxbury and a well-known resident throughout his long life, died a year ago. -Ed.)